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Ornithological notes from southern Bolivia

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The avifauna of the southern Bolivian departments of Chuquisaca and Tarija is relatively poorly known (Fjeldså & Mayer 1996), a fact reflected in the huge increase in the number of species listed for these geopolitical units between the 1980s (Remsen & Traylor 1989) and 2003 (Hennessey *et al.* 2003). Very few sites have been adequately surveyed, suggesting that much remains to be discovered about the ornithology of this region.

During visits in 2003–06 to these departments, as well as to neighbouring southern dpto. Santa Cruz, we made several interesting observations, including the first documented Bolivian records of Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba* and the nominate race of Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis*, details of which are presented here. We also report the second and third documented records of Black-headed Duck *Heteronetta atricapilla*, and three new species for dpto. Chuquisaca, all from the Montes Chapeados region. Lastly, we gathered data that help to clarify the status of Quebracho Crested-tinamou *Eudromia formosa*, a scarce *Chaco* endemic (Short 1975).

We present identifiable field photographs in support of three of these sightings. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow Remsen *et al.* (2007).

Survey sites

The following is a numbered list of Bolivian locality names mentioned herein and mapped in Fig. 1. Coordinates were taken using a Garmin GPS 60, except where stated. Localities are listed from north to south.

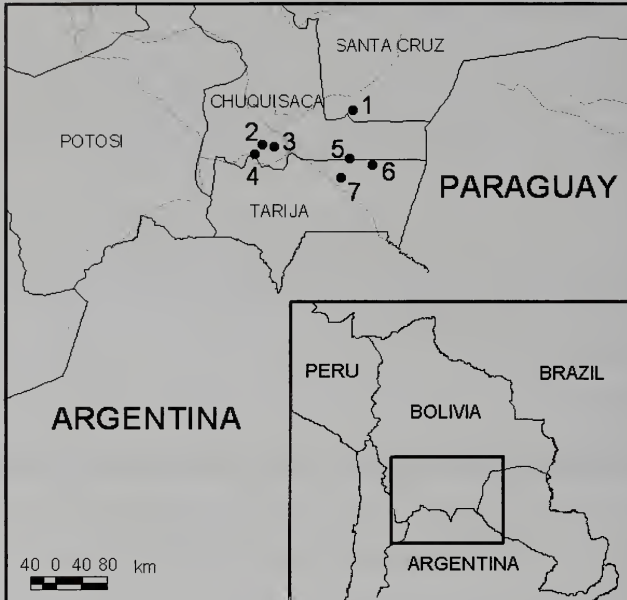


Figure 1. Map of relevant Bolivian departmental boundaries with survey sites, arranged from north to south and numbered as in the text.

(1) *Laguna Camatindi* (20°20'S, 63°17'W), c.600 m, Santa Cruz, 20–21 and 25 July 2006. A large lake near Boyuibe, surrounded by agricultural smallholdings and low *Chaco* scrub. Lake margins include extensive aquatic vegetation and flooded fields. Hunting is apparently prohibited and the wetland appears to be important for waterfowl, at least in the austral winter. It perhaps deserves classification as an Important Bird Area.

(2) *Cerro Campamentito* (20°48'S, 64°32'W: coordinates from S. Mayer *in litt.* 2005), Chuquisaca, 6 October 2003. This mountain, in the Montes Chapeados region of south-central Chuquisaca, supports large areas of humid forest up to 3,000 m. We surveyed the trail between El Palmar and Puca Pampa. A more detailed description of habitat was published in Fjeldså & Mayer (1996).

(3) *Cerro Bufete* (20°49'S, 64°22'W: coordinates from Schulenberg & Awbrey 1997), 2,000 m, Chuquisaca, 4 October 2003. Located above the village of El Palmar (1,000 m), this mountain is cloaked in humid forest between c.1,300 and 1,950 m. Detailed habitat descriptions were given by Fjeldså & Mayer (1996) and Schulenberg & Awbrey (1997).

(4) *Caraparí* (c.20°56'S, 64°39'W), c.1,000 m, Chuquisaca, 9 October 2003. This small town stands beside the río Pilaya in the semi-arid Valles region. Above it, steep slopes are partially covered with habitat resembling *Chaco* forest in structure,



Figure 2. Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*, laguna Capirenda, near Boyuibe, dpto. Santa Cruz, July 2005; the first documented record for Bolivia (J. A. Tobias)



Figure 3. Black-headed Duck *Heteronetta atricapilla*, laguna Capirenda, near Boyuibe, dpto. Santa Cruz, July 2005; the first documented record for Bolivia in 90 years (J. A. Tobias)



Figure 4. Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis occipitalis*, laguna Capirenda, near Boyuibe, dpto. Santa Cruz, July 2005; first documented record for Bolivia (J. A. Tobias)

characterised by low-stature deciduous trees, terrestrial bromeliads and columnar cacti (including *Trichocereus* sp.). This habitat extends to *c.*2,000 m, above which grassy slopes rise to over 3,000 m.

(5) *San Ramon* (21°00'S, 63°19'W), 450 m, Chuquisaca/Tarija, 18–19 July 2006. A village just east of the paved Santa Cruz–Villa Montes road surrounded by agricultural clearings and moist forest (canopy 20 m).

(6) *Capirenda* (21°05'S, 63°01'W), 400 m, Tarija, 19–20 July 2006. Coordinates taken from a small rush-fringed pool in low *Chaco* woodland, close to a little-used

unpaved road, c.2 km from Capirenda village. A larger lake is situated in the village, but this is more disturbed and much less attractive to wildfowl (many coots *Fulica*).

(7) *Villa Montes* (21°16'S, 63°27'W), 400 m, Tarija, 18 July 2006. A small town near the base of the Andes surrounded by tall moist woodland, similar to that around San Ramon.

Species accounts

QUEBRACHO CRESTED-TINAMOU *Eudromia formosa*

A record from 15 km north-east of Capirenda, dpto. Tarija, in August 1957 (Banks 1977; specimen in Los Angeles County Museum), was subsequently regarded as provisional because the only individual collected was a chick, and therefore indistinguishable from Elegant Crested-tinamou *E. elegans* (Remsen & Traylor 1983). This uncertainty led Hennessey *et al.* (2003) to list both species as hypothetical in Bolivia.

We visited Capirenda for two days in 2006 but failed to encounter any *Eudromia* tinamous. According to reports of three local hunters, a large, crested tinamou occurs east of the village, towards the Paraguay border. It is said to be rare, and far outnumbered by two smaller species (presumably Brushland Tinamou *Nothoprocta cinerascens* and Tataupa Tinamou *Crypturellus tataupa*, both of which we encountered). The habitat throughout was dry Chaco woodland at 400 m with a 2–6 m canopy and grassy clearings. The only *Eudromia* liable to occur in such habitat is *E. formosa*, which inhabits similar vegetation in neighbouring Argentina, and Paraguay (M. Pearman *in litt.* 2006, P. Smith *in litt.* 2006). Habitat at Capirenda recalls that near Joaquín V. Gonzáles, prov. Salta (pers. obs.), a well-known locality for *E. formosa*. Moreover, recent sightings of the species in Paraguay are from within 65 km of the Bolivian border, and c.120 km from Capirenda. The favoured habitat of *E. elegans* is open or low-stature vegetation (usually 0.3–1.0 m in height), such as Patagonian scrub and monte scrub-desert, and it does not occur in Chaco woodland (M. Pearman *in litt.* 2006; *contra* Short 1975). The species has not been recorded north the Calchaquies Valley, a dry intermontane valley (>1,000 m) in west-central prov. Salta, Argentina, and is almost certainly absent from Bolivia due to the absence of suitable habitat: the valley rises to a 5,000 m pass, above which *puna* habitat extends to the Bolivia border (M. Pearman *in litt.* 2006).

COSCOROBA SWAN *Coscoroba coscoroba*

A pair of adults at laguna Camatindi on 20–21 and 25 July 2006 is the first documented record for Bolivia, and for dpto. Santa Cruz. The species was listed as 'Hypothetical' in Bolivia by Hennessey *et al.* (2003), on the basis of sightings in Paraguay at laguna Palmar de las Islas, in Parque Nacional del Gran Chaco, dpto. Santa Cruz, post-2000 (S. K. Herzog *in litt.* 2006). This lake has a Bolivian shore, and the species probably ventured within Bolivian borders, although this was never

confirmed. A report in 2005 from the Bolivian Chaco (M. Herrera *in litt.* 2006) is unconfirmed.

This conspicuous waterbird is common in the Alto Chaco region of Paraguay in the austral winter (Guyra Paraguay 2004), and fairly common even as far north as south-central prov. Jujuy in neighbouring Argentina (M. Pearman *in litt.* 2006). It is probably a regular visitor in small numbers to wetlands in the Bolivian Chaco.

BLACK-HEADED DUCK *Heteronetta atricapilla*

An adult male was photographed at Capirenda, dpto. Tarija on 19 July 2006. It was seen alongside other waterfowl, including White-faced Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna viduata* (12), Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* (1), Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* (1), Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys* (c.30), Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis* (c.15), White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* (11), Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca* (22), Masked Duck *Oxyura dominica* (4) and Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (5).

In the same month a group of four (apparently two pairs of adults) was photographed on three dates at laguna Camatindi, with large numbers of waterfowl, including Comb Duck (2), Ringed Teal (c.200), Brazilian Teal (c.10), White-cheeked Pintail (c.200), Rosy-billed Pochard (c.50), Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* (c.20), Pied-billed Grebe (c.25), White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland* (6), as well as White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera* (c.500) and White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* (c.100). At both localities, Black-headed Ducks were typically sluggish and inconspicuous, usually loafing at the edge of floating aquatic vegetation.

These are the second and third documented records for Bolivia, and the first for 90 years. They include the first record for dpto. Tarija, and the second for dpto. Santa Cruz. The first Bolivian record was a female collected by J. Steinbach at Buena Vista in May 1916 (Meyer de Schauensee 1966; specimen in Carnegie Museum). A recent undocumented record involves unspecified numbers at laguna Taputarenda, dpto. Santa Cruz, in February 2005 (Maillard *et al.* 2006). These records suggest that the species is a regular visitor to Bolivia, probably as an austral migrant. In neighbouring Paraguay, it is a scarce austral winter visitor to the *Chaco* regions of Alto Chaco and Bajo Chaco (Guyra Paraguay 2004), whereas in Argentina it is locally common year-round in southern prov. Salta, moving north in the non-breeding season to prov. Santiago del Estero; there is also a specimen record from prov. Chaco, curiously from the austral summer (M. Pearman *in litt.* 2006).

SILVERY GREBE *Podiceps occipitalis*

At least two of the southern form *occipitalis* were photographed at laguna Camatindi in July 2006. One had retained breeding plumage. The nearest known breeding grounds are in prov. Santa Fe, Argentina (M. Pearman *in litt.* 2006), and it seems unlikely that breeding occurs in Bolivia.

The montane race *juninensis* is well known from Andean wetlands in Bolivia (Fjelds  & Krabbe 1990), but there are no confirmed records of *occipitalis*. The latter taxon has been listed as possibly occurring in Bolivia (Hennessey *et al.* 2003), on the basis of a statement that it ‘winters in N of range’ (Llimona & del Hoyo 1992). It was also mapped as a winter visitor to the Pantanal of eastern Bolivia (Fjelds  & Krabbe 1990, Fjelds  2004), but the lowest altitudinal record in Bolivia is 2,600 m (Hennessey *et al.* 2003), suggesting an error and that *occipitalis*—the form most likely to occur in the lowlands—has never been reported from the country. Interestingly, an immature of the Andean form *juninensis* was also present at laguna Camatindi in July 2006 (photographed), thereby extending the lower altitudinal range of this form to 600 m.

In Argentina, nominate *occipitalis* migrates north in the austral winter, occurring in large numbers in prov. Santiago del Estero, but only infrequently further north, in prov. Formosa and prov. Chaco (M. Pearman *in litt.* 2006). It is scarce in Paraguay, being known only from Alto Paran  in the far south (Guyra Paraguay 2004). In Chile it has been reported more than once at Chungara, Lauca National Park, a few km from the Bolivian border (A. Jaramillo *in litt.* 2006), suggesting that it occurs more regularly in the highlands of Bolivia, and perhaps in southernmost Peru.

Nominate *occipitalis* and *juninensis* differ in several important features, including face pattern, voice, habitat, migratory tendency and moult strategy (Fjelds  & Krabbe 1990, Jaramillo *et al.* 2003). These characters probably serve to maintain reproductive isolation as no intermediate individuals have been reported, despite apparent contact in their breeding ranges (M. Pearman *in litt.* 2006). The two forms warrant treatment as separate species (Jaramillo *et al.* 2003).

WHITE-RUMPED HAWK *Buteo leucorrhous*

Two pairs in flight at Cerro Campamentito on 6 October 2003, one either side of the main ridge, represented the first record for dpto. Chuquisaca. One pair was displaying and vocalising, suggesting that the species breeds in the vicinity. This record fills a small gap in the species’ range and suggests a continuous distribution through Bolivian montane forests from Peru to Argentina.

OILBIRD *Steatornis caripensis*

One in flight over montane forest at a camp at *c.*1,900 m on Cerro Bufete, dpto. Chuquisaca, in October 2003. Although seen only for *c.*5 seconds, the bird was easily identified by its distinctive long-winged, almost gull-like, shape and odd guttural alarm-note with which we were familiar from breeding sites further north. The known range extends south to the mountains of Ambor  National Park, dpto. Santa Cruz (Hennessey *et al.* 2003). As the record is extralimital, and lacks evidence, it should not be treated as proof of occurrence in dpto. Chuquisaca; further documentation is required.

CRESTED GALLITO *Rhinocrypta lanceolata*

One at 2,050 m on steep slopes above Caraparí, in October 2003. This record (documented with sound-recordings and photographs) is the first for dpto. Chuquisaca, and the highest-ever altitude on record. In Argentina, the nominate race is known from *Chaco* woodland and *monte* scrub to 1,800 m (Mazar Barnett & Pearman 2001, Krabbe & Schulenberg 2003), but the previous upper-elevational limit in Bolivia was just 600 m (Hennessey *et al.* 2003). This disparity led to the statement that *saturata*, supposedly restricted to Bolivia and west Paraguay, was distributed 'only in lowlands' (Krabbe & Schulenberg 2003). It was not possible to identify the Chuquisaca gallito to subspecies, but given the locality we assume that *saturata* is involved, and that this form has a much broader altitudinal range than previously known. It probably extends along semi-arid watersheds of the southern Valles region to the montane zone, principally along the ríos Pilaya and Pilcomayo.

WHITE-BROWED GROUND-TYRANT *Muscisaxicola albilora*

Four seen, and one photographed, along a 2-km transect through ridgetop *puna* above Caraparí, in October 2003. Most sightings were made at c.3,100 m. Although superficially similar to Puna Ground-tyrant *M. juninensis*, they were separable by their longer and more conspicuous white supercilia (extending well behind the eye), the slightly greyer upperparts, and the richer chestnut hindcrown. These records, the first for dpto. Chuquisaca, were to be expected given that this austral migrant ranges north to Ecuador in the non-breeding season (Meyer de Schauensee 1966).

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Birds of Damar Island, Banda Sea, Indonesia

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Wallacea, in the extreme south-east corner of Asia, has an extraordinary avifauna. A staggering ten Endemic Bird Areas (EBAs) and 67 Important Bird Areas have been identified (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998, BirdLife International 2004); indeed the region's exceptional diversity has challenged identification of conservation priorities, including the ordering of on-ground baseline surveys. Field studies have intensified since the 1980s, with discoveries of new bird taxa, numerous rediscoveries, and new natural history data for poorly known species (e.g. Lambert 1998a,b, Rasmussen 1999, Riley & Wardill 2001, Rozendaal & Lambert 1999, Olsen *et al.* 2002, Indrawan & Somadikarta 2004, Sangster & Rozendaal 2004). Yet the sheer number of islands (c.13,500) and consequent idiosyncratic spatial distribution of their 260+ (taxonomy dependent) endemic species has, amongst other factors, slowed efforts to evaluate bird species status.

In south-east Wallacea, the Banda Sea Islands Endemic Bird Area (EBA 165) is dominated by ocean and numerous widely scattered islands. Seventeen of the 40 globally restricted-range birds are confined to this EBA, and most of the remainder occur in neighbouring EBAs (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998). Recent avifaunal surveys within EBA 165 have been undertaken only on the Tanimbar and Kai islands (Coates & Bishop 1997, Bishop & Brickle 1998, Jepson *et al.* 2001), though the area